MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

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Monday in Memphis

FUNK DEFEATS LAWLER FOR USWA BELT

MEMPHIS----With an assist from Eddie Gilbert and a chain, Terry Funk won the USWA heavyweight championship last Monday night in Memphis from five-time champion Jerry Lawler in 20:57.

Amidst a tremendous babyface reaction for the characterized-heel Funk, the first seven minutes was called "some of the best pure wrestling since the Funk-Flair matches" by Memphis ringsiders.

Mid-match, the action floated outside as the two brawled at alternating points of offense.

The turning point came at the 18:20 mark when referee Jerry Calhoun was knocked down. Gilbert dashed to the ring with a chain in hand. Lawler had just piledriven Funk when Gilbert tried and missed decking Lawler with a chain twice until Eddie Marlin showed up to tackle Gilbert. But with Calhoun still groggy, Funk clobbered Lawler with a chain and Calhoun counted the fatal fall on Lawler.

The "still-dazed" Calhoun was slow to rise and Lawler picked up the chain, hoping to show Calhoun and claim a DQ win. Instead, Calhoun admonished Lawler for his possession of the chain and reinforced Funk as the new champion.

The Mid-South Coliseum crowd broke out into majority choruses of, "Ter-ry, Ter-ry, Ter-ry," as Funk held the belt over his head and mugged for the audience.

The belt change will be more than a one-week Memphis wonder as after the show, Funk did an interview as champion for the USWA syndicated series, which is taped three weeks in advance.

USWA commentator Craig Johnson, in the interview, introduced Funk, who banged his head into the microphone three times and as Johnson pulled away, Funk said: "I always thought Howard Cosell was a great man. Young man, you have a long way to go."

Of course, that was after Funk held the belt up to the camera and proclaimed, "Hi, Mom! I did it!"

Pulled from Cards

PHANTOM MAIL STIRS FLAP OVER JUICER

Anonymous letters, with a Westchester NY postmark, have led to Art (The Juicer) Barr being pulled from World Championship Wrestling cards and his future status with WCW in limbo.

MATWATCH has learned the letters, which included copies of at least four columns from Oregon newspapers in July and August, three of which were columns and editorials decrying Barr's sentence in late July for a guilty plea to first degree sexual abuse in Umatilla County (OR) Circuit Court, were mailed to sports departments of at least four of the seven commercial television stations in Atlanta, including two without sports departments. The case, as reported in the spring, involved an alleged July 1989 rape of a 19-year-old woman from Pendleton OR by Barr along a stairway at a Pendleton armory.

The letters, which had a Nov. 1 postmark, were also mailed to a newspaper in Memphis Thursday, the same day Barr was to appear on a Mid-South Coliseum card as the Juicer. MATWATCH was contacted by a Memphis reporter about the situation. We attempted to call WCW executive vice president Jim Herd Thursday afternoon and were told he was not available. Herd was out of the Atlanta office Friday.

Barr was pulled from the Memphis show and reportedly summoned back to Atlanta Friday. At deadline, MATWATCH could not confirm with WCW if Barr is being dismissed from the promotion.

The letters contained hand-written comments and footnotes, some with grammatical errors, in margins of the columns. One statement, next to a column by EAST OREGONIAN writer Michael Burgess, stated: "I am sure you can do something about this rapist...being called the leader of our Southern youngsters. Ted Turner, now the WTBS and also NWA boss, must not care who and what Jim Herd hire (sic). Wonder what Jane Fonda thinks of this?"

Barr's sentence was two years probation, 180 hours of community service and a $1,000 fine. Barr was also ordered to pay the victim's medical and counseling expenses. The plea bargaining agreement, which lowered the charge from a Class C felony to a Class A misdemeanor, was reportedly okayed by the victim and her father. The EAST OREGONIAN editorial was sharply critical of the reduction to a misdemeanor: "Both (the misdemeanor and the felony) carry the same punishment but Barr feared he might lose his pro wrestling license if convicted of a felony. What a pity that would be....the courts are playing fast and loose with this notion of community service as punishment....unless a true public benefit can be demonstrated, the courts should be conservative about using community service as punishment, particularly with sex offenses. Certainly in this case, in our opinion, Barr should be behind bars while he thinks about what a woman means when she says "no."

Columnist Margie Boule wrote: "If Art had been sentenced to go to jail, he might have missed some wrestling matches. In a few weeks, Art will probably be standing before a group of your kids at some local boys' club, talking about the wonderful world of wrestling. Maybe some of the kids will ask quesons of their hero. Maybe one of them will ask how a professional wrestler can have sex with a woman in a public sports arena, while she's begging him to stop, and get off without ever spending a single night in jail. What a role model."

(Continued on Page 2)

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

One source close to the promotion was angered at the prospect of Barr's limbo. "The kid was looking good and he was really trying hard," the source said. "This is terrible."

Clearly, the dilemma is multifold. Several questions have to be raised within the WCW organization and fast. I'll attempt to ask some of them directly to Mr. Herd this week:

***WHO KNEW THE STATUS OF BARR'S CASE WITHIN WCW AND WHEN?: Since WCW scrutinizes wrestling newsletters like ants at a picnic and has one self-appointed bulletin monitor who regularly reports on how inaccurate sheets are, how could someone not have read of Barr's guilty plea? And if they did know, did they think the story of the case would not eventually be told in the mainstream media in Atlanta?

***IF SOMEONE DID KNOW, WHY WAS BARR, GUILTY OF A SEX OFFENSE WITH SOMEONE ONLY TWO YEARS PAST A MINOR, CAST IN HIS TRADITIONAL KIDS' HERO ROLE?: It's as if someone had a specific wish to embarrass the Turner organization, which is a vocal proponent of family values in its regular programming.

***WHAT WILL THE OUTCOME BE?: Further, what kind of safeguards will be instituted to try to prevent this in the future?

I am a firm believer that anyone in society deserves a second chance after making a mistake, if one has paid the proper penalty and has had time to truly reflect on the degree and impact of that mistake. Only Art Barr and his maker know that about Barr's situation but it's obvious many people in East Oregon have made up their minds.

One has suggested to me the anonymous letters were sent from New York by a "phantom" from Titan Sports in an effort to embarrass Turner. I called Titan to ask for a comment and my calls were not returned. But that is not the issue here.

Turner Broadcasting System has espoused and has predominantly presented family values in its programming since it grew to a national power in cable. The words role model are about as hollow today in sports as some milk chocolate rabbits are at Easter. And professional wrestling is often an aberration of the term "family entertainment." However, in this case of miscasting, someone should have known better, both for the company's sake and---to be honest---for Barr's. Unfortunately, The Juicer has shown signs of becoming red-hot with kids, something WCW desperately needs. The timing is simply wrong for Art Barr to be playing the role.

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Pinfall Profile

UWF: PROMISING TV BUT A WAY TO GO

After a half-dozen stutter steps and one missed deadline in getting on the air, Herb Abrams' Universal Wrestling Federation has shown some promise among small-promotional efforts on cable.

With his 13-week SPORTS CHANNEL AMERICA contract, Abrams has trotted out a product with some semblance of production values, though the UWF broadcasts are far from major league in quality.

On the positive side: 1) graphic identifications are solid and symmetrically pleasing, though in the first four shows, jobbers---most of whom are not as familiar as the regular WWF and WCW sacrificial lambs---are rarely identified; 2) insert interviews are produced with quality chroma-key and graphic backgrounds and are kept sufficiently brief, since this group is basically a TV company and has no personal issues to build for arena shows; 3) Abrams has attempted to showcase the "best of the rest" independent wrestlers available, though the handicap in this is that one will rarely see a clean pinfall when any two main eventers are matched. That, in itself, makes the broadcasts too predictable.

On the negative side, production-wise: 1) lighting is weak for a promotion trying to build a small but national base. Even in the ring entrances, hand-held cameras need battery lights to highlight facial features; 2) audio is horrible. When Abrams and Bruno Sammartino are delivering their voiceovers, the sound mix is as if Bruno and Abrams are watching the video in a shower stall. Fan reaction is much too low and there's no illusion of the commentary being done live. Until this can be solved, announcing should be done at the arena; 3) transitions need to be smoother to commercial breaks. Often, they're abrupt and confusing.

Overall, the weakest part of the show is the commentary. Abrams doesn't even know the names of many of the holds and when the lead announcer has to ask the color commentator about the basics in the ring constantly, he needs to hire a quality announcer. Certainly, Chris Cruise is available and would enjoy the opportunity to work with his idol Sammartino. With Bruno, I certainly respect for what the man has meant to pro wrestling. But listening to Bruno's monotone for what on one show was 78% of the commentary was too much. In particular, a younger, more personable announcer, such as Cruise, could carry the action and allow Bruno to do what he can do best, lend expertise to the ring techniques.

If viewers could be treated to more conclusive finishes and the descriptions could be sharpened, the UWF could be one of the better efforts offered on SPORTS CHANNEL AMERICA. But until Abrams improves the production, he is unlikely to build the kind of fare which could draw major national syndication, a necessity if he has his sights on doing arena shows.

MATWATCH ANNUAL

Next week, we'll bring you our 2-part ballot for the 1990 MATWATCH TV AWARDS with fewer categories and more focus for the best and the rest of '90. This year's annual is titled WHAT WENT WRONG. Ordering information will be offered in next week's 8-page issue, along with a special gift offer for MATWATCH readers for Christmas.

TV TEMPO
Nov. 5-11

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME 11/5]: Barbarian d. Tito Santana using trunks; Warlord d. Jim Brunzell; Ronnie Garvin d. Bob Bradley; Rhythm & Blues d. Bushwackers by DQ when Butch hits R&B w. guitar; Power & Glory d. Reno Riggins/Scott Colton; (10-MIN. MATCH) Dustin Rhodes draw vs. Ted DiBiase but Ted knees Dusty after & Ted & Virgil beat on Dustin until Dusty saves w. chair; (UPDATE) BRO. LUV DDT'd by Jake Roberts; Shane Douglas d. Black Bart; (BRO. LUV) Bobby Heenan says he's sorry to Bossman; Other winner: Dino Bravo. DRAW.
[11/12]: Legion of Doom d. Orient Express by DQ when Demolition runs in and 5-on-2 starts; Tito Santana d. Rick Martel by DQ.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Bestia Salvaje/Comando Ruso d. Coliseo Dos Mil/El Justiciero 2-3 falls; Mascara Sagrada/Armando Guererro/Mogur d. Fuerza Guererra/Ponzona/El Hijo del Gladiador 2-3; Emilio Charles Jr./El Angel Blanco Jr./Pierroth Jr. d. Super Astro/Xavier Cruz/El Nuevo Huracan Ramirez Jr.; Pirata Morgan/El Satanico/Mascara Ano Dos Mil d. El Faraon/El Dandy/Sangre Chicana 2-3; Fabuloso Blondy/Pedro Aguayo/Kung Fu d. Atlantis/Lizmark/Rinigo Mendoza 2-3. DRAW.

(AWA/ESPN) - [6-MAN] Sgt. Slaughter/Trooper/Nikita Koloff d. Russian Brute/Larry Zbyszko/Mike Enos; Lumberjacks d. W.T. Jones/Pete Pistolka; Russian Brute d. George Anderson; Tommy Jammer d. Tom Stone; Enos/Jonnie Stewart d. Steve Berg/Mike Braham; [AWA TITLE] Zbyszko d. D.J. Peterson. BOMB.

(UWF) - Paul Orndorff d. Gary Keats; Cactus Jack d. Chief Jay Strongbow Jr. by DQ when David Sammartino runs in to save Strongbow; Bob Orton Jr. d. Michael Morton; (CAPTAIN LOU'S CORNER) Andre the Giant; Viking d. Kevin Benjamin; Sammartino d. Riki Ataki; Ken Patera d. Billy Jack Haynes by DQ. DRAW.

(WWF/SYND) - [CHALLENGE]: Jimmy Snuka d. Black Bart; Curt Hennig d. Mike Shelton; Sgt. Slaughter d. Jackson; Santana d. Rick Martel; Sama Simba d. Dave Wolfe. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[SUPERSTARS]: Kerry Von Erich d. Buddy Rose; (UPDATE) Dustin-DiBiase; Barbarian d. Red Tyler; P&G d. Riggins/Colton; Jim Duggan d. Doug Vines; L.O.D. d. O Ex by DQ (see PRIME TIME 11/12); (BRO. LUV) Hennig/Demolition. DRAW.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Abdullah the Butcher d. Chris Regal; Jack Victory d. Ragin' Cajun; (5-STAR) Wendell Cooley d. Don Harris; (CLASSIC) John Michaels/Tom Thumb d. Chic Donovan/Dr. Evil by DQ; Blazers d. Black Assassin/Assassinator; (INTL) Bull Nakano/Dump Matsumoto d. Crush Girls; Jim Powell/Festus d. Billy Black/Mr. Wrestling. RESTHOLD.

(WCW/SYND) - [WORLD WIDE]: Sting d. Ring Lord I; Iron Sheik d. Todd Brewer; (WRAPUP) Sting-Black Scorpion HAVOC angle, Motor City Madman destroys 4 jobbers w. Paul E. urging him on; Buddy Landell d. Riggins; Junkyard Dog d. Chuck Coates; Southern Boys d. Rip Rogers/Jim Corbett; Other winners: Nasty Boys. BOMB-PLUS.
[NWA PRO]: Steiners d. Ed Brock/Rob Morgan; J.W. Storm d. Pablo Crenshaw; (DANGER ZONE) 1. Paul E. w. Arn Anderson & replay of Arn's TV title win over Allen Iron Eagle. 2. Paul/M.C. Madman feature. 3. Stan Hansen on Luger; [WCW TV TITLE] Anderson draw vs. Terry Taylor; (CLIP) Doom-Horsemen finish at HAVOC; Juicer d. George South; Midnight Express d. J.J. Stratford/Italian Stallion. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

SCALE: PINFALL - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(USWA/SYND) - [CHALLENGE]: {USWA TOURNEY} Austin Idol d. John Tatum; Terry Funk d. Steve Keirn; Jerry Lawler d. Dick Slater; Funk d. Dick Murdoch; Tourney recap/semifinals preview. POWERSLAM.
[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Tony Anthony/Doug Gilbert d. Todd Morton/Ben Jordan; Lawler d. M.C. Jammer; (MID-SOUTH) Lawler/Bill & Jamie Dundee d. Internationals when Jamie juices heavy; Jeff Jarrett vs. Danny Davis no contest when heels attack both men; Ken Wayne d. Todd Johnson. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - Beast d. Sindee Paradise; Rusty Thomas d. Dawn Marie; Bad, Black & Beautiful d. Locomotion. BOMB-PLUS.

(ICW) - Cactus Jack Manson d. Chuck Doll; Moondog d. Sundance; The Cat/Simon Gardine d. Mad Russian/Bobby Case; Tony Atlas d. Iron Sheik; Dungeon Master d. Terry Gunn; (RECAP) Atlas-Steamboat series w. Vic's comments. BOMB!! BOMB!!

(USWA/WMC) - [USWA TAG TITLE] Tony Anthony/Doug Gilbert d. Bill & Jamie Dundee to keep belts when Tojo Yamamoto throws salt in Bill's face. Bill juices; [MID-SOUTH/USWA HWT. TITLE]: Funk d. Lawler w. chain to win belt; Danny Davis d. Twilight Zone Quasar; Joey Maggs d. Freezer Thompson w. fist. Davis questions Joey why he used fist & Joey throws Danny over top rope to set up Davis-Maggs match Monday night; [RECAP] Eddie Gilbert-Jeff Jarrett feud; Lou Fabiano d. Brickhouse Brown by countout when Brick chases Anthony/DWG after Tony holds Sweet Georgia Brown for Kim to KO w. boxing glove; RESTHOLD-PLUS....too much interview pad in this one.

(PORTLAND) - Al Madril d. John Rambo; (FOR SHOT AT PACIFIC NW TITLE) Steve Doll d. Brad Anderson; Scott Norton d. Doug Masters; Mark Sawyer d. Ricky Santana when John Rambo knocks Santana off top rope during ref bump; Larry & Rip Oliver vs. Grappler/Equalizer in progress as show ends (Olivers win 1st fall on DQ); (FIESTA GARDEN) Grap/Eq/Dirty White Boy (Robert Blair) attack Doll. Mark Sawyer tries to save but is beaten. Grappler loads boot but Doll dodges & pulls boot off. Doll loads boot and nails Eq. Grap flees; (ANGLE) Don Owen tells Grappler he's barring Equalizer and Blair from building for next week's match. Eq goes after Owen and Owen kicks Eq in leg. POWERSLAM-PLUS...best show in weeks.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: JYD d. Barry Horowitz; J.W. Storm d. John Peterson; (WWN) Gordon w. Sting-Scorpion HAVOC angle; (REPLAY) Ric Flair offers $500,000, yacht, Rolls Royce for shot at DOOM's tag title; Flair/Arn d. Joe Barrett/Stallion; Sid Vicious d. Dave Taylor; [RUNNING THE GAUNTLET] Steve Armstrong d. Stan Lane when Steve creams Stan w. racket as Nick Patrick holds off Cornette. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WCW]: Tom Zenk d. Cliff Sheets; Magnum Force d. Joe DeFuria/Tim Parker; Curtis Hughes d. Scotty Williams; Juicer d. Storm by DQ when Norman reveals J.W. using ropes. Norm & Storm then brawl; [GAUNTLET II] Landell d. Armstrong when Bobby Eaton decks Steve off top rope; Eaton d. Sting by DQ when he backflips Bobby over top rope. (ANGLE) During match, Black Scorpion music begins playing & Scorp begins taunting Sting. After, 2 bums jump Sting & he tosses them out; Nightstalker d. Gary Jackson; Brian Pillman d. Rogers; Vicious d.

Scott Sandlin; (SEGMENT) Teddy Long tries out Ric Flair's Rolls-Royce and yacht until two attendants tell him he has to leave; (ANGLE) Teddy refuses to open surprise package delivered to him until show's end but time runs out; Ricky Morton d. Michael Hayes by DQ when Jimmy Garvin runs in. Tommy Rich saves but Eaton runs in for a 3-on-2 until El Gigante saves and military presses Bobby; Nasty Boys d. Keith Hart/Neil Allen. DRAW-PLUS....much more than in past weeks. [MAIN EVENT]: Pillman/Zenk d. Gil Cannatella/Hassan Farouk; Nasty Boys d. Crenshaw/Mark White; (ANGLE REPLAYS) {From HAVOC} Nasties attack Scott Steiner; Sting-Scorpion; {From WCW} Teddy Long on Flair's yacht; (From NWA PRO) {NWA TV TITLE} Arn d. Allen Iron Eagle; Eaton d. Tracy Smothers when Freebirds double leg sweep Tracy as Richard Marley distracts ref. Tommy Rich runs in before El Gigante cleans house. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Tojo Yamamoto, USWA, on prospect of Tojo doll: "Just get Buddha doll and put my head on it." 2. Paul E. Dangerously, PH, to Jim Ross: "Dave Taylor has as much chance of survival against Sid Vicious as a buffet owner has of making a profit when Norman and you come into town." 3. Roddy Piper, WWF-S, on Buddy Rose: "You can spot him a mile away, or if he's in the ring, you might want to move to the back row, so you can see everything." 4. Piper, WWF, on Abraham Lincoln: "He didn't like going to the theater. I don't like it much, either." 5. Piper, WWF, on Rose: "When you're in against Kerry Von Erich, you have to watch your p's and q's, or cellulite." 6. Rick Steiner, WWW: "If something happens to you, we plead insanity. We go to the home. We play checkers." 7. Tony Schiavone, WWW: "A pool hall is a great farm system for professional wrestling." 8. Paul E., PH, on J.W. Storm: "I like his Paul E. Dangerously-style ponytail." 9. Dutch Mantel/Schiavone, WWW: (DM) "Who is the most famous person from Seymour, Indiana?" (TS) "Bob Eubanks." 10. Downtown Bruno, WMC: "I press and curl every day. I press my suit and curl my hair."

11. Dave Brown, WMC on Bruno: "You say you weigh 210? Well, with that (fake) hair, all the glue may weigh that much." 12. Bruno, WMC, on Jamie Dundee: "He looks like a walking skeleton." 13. Stan Hansen, NWA PRO, on Motor City Madman: "Paul E., I hope he likes you...but I don't." 14. Jimmy Garvin, NWA PRO, on Juicer: "You can always tell an alcoholic. He's got dust in his hair." 15. Ross, PH, on Cornette: "Polyester is not dead. It's alive and well in that coat." 16. Ross, WCW, on Magnum Force: "They come to us with a glossy background." 17. John Rambo, PORTLAND, to Santana/Madril: "Each of you better take $68 out of your pay because Greyhound goes anywhere for $68 or less." 18. Ricky Santana, PORTLAND: "If Don Owen kicks me, I'll slap him up side of his aging head." 19. Santana/Don Coss, PORTLAND, on Santana/Madril as #7 in PWI: (RS) "The proof is in the pudding." (DC) "It's also in that magazine." 20. Verne Lundquist, Bears-Falcons, CBS, on kicker Kevin Butler's takedown of Falcon: "He thought he was Jesse Ventura on that one."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Jim Ross, PH, on JYD's rollup: "It's probably one of the only two wrestling holds he knows." 2. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO, on Juicer: "He brought his kid in the ring, now why doesn't he pay his child support payments?" 3. Jeff Jarrett, WMC, on Eddie Gilbert: "I don't know if you're still having trouble from your divorce." 4. Jim Cornette/Paul E., PH: (JC) "He's the Gangster or Love---Sweet Stan Lane!" (PE) "I didn't think he was talking about Tony Gilliam." 5. Sweet Georgia Brown, WMC: "Dirty White Girl, I'm gonna kick your butt into the next area code."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "What do the Bushwackers have, other than to be able to get rid of 13 pounds of garbage without a can?" 2. Schiavone/Dutch Mantel, WWW: (DM) "Tony, when am I gonna be able to do an interview?" (TS) "When are you going to wear something other than a black jacket and a poncho?" 3. Al Madril, PORTLAND, to Don Coss: "Why don't you get a new hairpiece? What's the matter...too much to pay?"

HYPE AWARD - Schiavone, WWW: "The Junkyard Dog has been SO impressive of late..."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE PICASSOS OF PINFALLS (Jim Cornette on M Ex). 2. CHOLESTEROL KING (Gorilla Monsoon on Gene Okerlund). 3. TORPEDOHEAD (Demolition Crush on Okerlund). 4. BULLWINKLE (Monsoon on Barbarian). 5. MOTOR CITY OLD MAN (Stan Hansen on Motor City Madman). 6. THE DUNDEE TWINS (Tony Anthony on Jamie & Bill). 7. BARRY (THE BANKER) HOROWITZ (Paul E. on Horowitz).

BEST PICTURES - 1. WWW, Motor City Madman grabbing Paul E. by shirt. 2. WWF-S, P&G suplex, top rope dive. 3. NWA PRO, Ed Brock's Spandex split at crotch after Steinerline. 4. NWA PRO, Juicer carrying child. 5. NWA PRO, Juicer top rope dive onto George South. 6. WMC, Gilbert-Jarrett retrospective. 7. WWF-S, Demolition/O Ex 5-on-2 on Road Warriors. 8. WCW, Sting throwing Eaton face first into rail on fly.

WORST PICTURE - WMC, Downtown Bruno's toupee.

ENGLISH LESSON - Arn Anderson, NWA PRO: "Maybe some of my thoughts have WENT in that direction."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Gordon Solie, WWW: "...picture is worth a thousand words." 2. Doug Gilbert, WMC: "...crying over spilled milk."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - 1. NWA PRO, chroma key on Lance Russell & Freebirds so bad, Lance looked like he had a peanuthead. 2. WMC, Dave Brown pitches to Terry Funk interview but Eddie Gilbert spot comes up after freeze-frame of Funk. 3. WCW, audio feedback in Center Stage during Luger interview.

TUBE TALK

Next week will bring the most prime time live TV wrestling in the same week (6 1/2 hours) since the 1950s. We'll have a feature story on it next week....FLORIDA TODAY had a bit on Flair on the sidelines with a Gator cap on at the Georgia-Florida game in Jacksonville Saturday. Flair's wife Beth is a Florida grad from the mid-'70s. The article said Florida player Kirk Kirkpatrick is best friends with Joe Gomez (Allen Iron Eagle), whom the story indicated is "being groomed to be the next world heavyweight champion." The writer must have sampled the stuff that flows at the Gator Bowl.

Good friends Ron (ARENA REPORT) Lemieux and K.B. (KLON) Herron will be in Jacksonville live for the CLASH....The Idol-Lawler USWA championship match will air next week on the USWA syndie show.

ANDRE FINED $100; MUST PAY REPAIRS

CEDAR RAPIDS IA---Andre (The Giant) Rousimoff has been fined $100 by a Cedar Rapids judge for his bout with a local TV cameraman last year.

Andre was accused of fighting with videographer Ben Hildebrandt, who was shooting Andre's match for the local NBC affiliate, and putting Hildebrandt in a headlock.

In court testimony, Andre claimed Hildebrandt videotaped the match without the 6-11 former WWF performer's permission.

In addition to the fine, Andre was ordered to pay $233 for repairs to the camera.

FUNK REAX: A number of USWA insiders were shocked at how popular the Terry Funk title win over Jerry Lawler actually was but a veteran Memphis ring observer said it may be a temporary boon.

VINCE GETS IT: Titan will get the Nov. 23 live special on NBC (a one-hour slot) and: get this---the Rockers are no longer going to be recognized as WWF tag team champions. We're told Jim Neidhart, on the out list with Titan, is now being retained, so as in the Gospel According to Vince: just forget the title change ever happened.

ONE PUNCH: The Eddie Gilbert-Jeff Jarrett Southern title rematch where the first to throw a punch lost (Jeff threw one) was not up to their usual par. On TV the week before, Eddie Marlin had ordered the match to be the opener to "get Gilbert out of the building" but it was the semifinal nonetheless.

OTHER MEMPHIS: Ken Wayne beat Danny Davis by DQ when Wayne put a chain in Davis' trunks; Tony & Kim Anthony d. Brickhouse & Sweet Georgia Brown when Brick was doubleteamed and The Internationals d. Chris Champion/Bill Dundee.

NO NERVES: TBS not concerned about the low rating of the first Saturday a.m. POWER HOUR. One program exec says it will need time to grow and be promoted.

MAGNUM WHO?: The Magnum Force team on WCW Saturday night was dumped during the same Center Stage tapings last Monday. Later in the evening, a new Magnum Force team was introed but it didn't fool the fans, who began chanting, "Ring Lords! Ring Lords!"

BIG SUCCESS: We're told the TOM ROBINSON BENEFIT SUPERCARD was a major success in the Philly area and on the Saturday night half of the two-night series, Eddie Gilbert and Cactus Jack brawled in the stands.

BOBBY AILING: Bobby Eaton apparently hurt his knee in the match with Sting and had to sit out the tag bout at the Tom Robinson show in Drexel Hill, so Eddie filled in with Stan Lane against Funk/Cactus.

MATWATCHING

LPWA LATEST: Ken Resnick is out as play-by-play announcer for LPWA. Sources tell us Resnick demanded creative and editing control over the shows. Syndicator Tor Berg had budgeted for 20 hours of editing time to produce four shows. Resnick took 26 hours and only produced one episode, so he was booted.

TEMPORARY HOST: Joe Pedicino will work as LPWA host for four weeks of shows at the Nov. 29-30 LPWA tapings in Las Vegas. Then, USWA's Craig Johnson is expected to take over at the next series.

AND IN NEGOTIATIONS: Berg is also dickering with a major name for the color commentator role but those negotiations may not be final until this week. Nick Bockwinkel is reportedly out.

NEXT USWA TAPINGS: Jerry Jarrett will tape his syndicated TV through the end of the year Saturday night in Nashville and Sunday night in Louisville.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Funk didn't defend the belt Monday night but Lawler and Eddie met in a barbed wire lights out match and Lawler teamed with Bill Dundee to go against the Internationals in a loser-leave-USWA for one-year match. Lou Fabiano lost.

TAMPA TALES: Steve Keirn kept his Florida belt last Thursday against Coconut Kid, Jim Backlund won over the Terminator and Mark Starr and Sgt. Rock retained the Florida tag belts against Dick Slater and Mighty Thor.

NO MORE DALLAS?: Jarrett may be backing away from returning to the Sportatorium. We're told it would cost him $60,000-80,000 to return to Dallas and the Sportatorium owner is reportedly running scared of a lawsuit if he turns away Kevin Von Erich.

ANOTHER LOCALE: If Jarrett does return to Dallas, he'll likely go to the Bronco Bowl, a place we're told seats more than the Sportatorium. But don't be surprised to see Jarrett open a different territory.

ELECTRIFYING: The new high-tech opening on SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING was in the works before John Fillipelli was hired but is probably the most spectacular title in the history of TV wrestling.

NEW FORMAT: Too early to panic but I'm not sure the new PRIME TIME WWF format is working. The idea of having the last half-hour with lesser matches, rather than building to the feature bout, may be hurting the ratings, down two straight weeks.

RIGHTS PROBLEM: We unfairly gave a BOO AWARD to Channel 30 in Memphis, the indie which aired a rerun of an old USWA show last week as the third week of the USWA tourney was to begin. It seems WMC-TV has exclusive rights to Mid-South Coliseum matches and after two weeks of the tourney appeared on Ch. 30, WMC invoked the blackout. WMC was also unhappy about Dave Brown appearing on a competitor for two weeks.

RATINGS RAP

TBS SHOWS ROLL BACK TO TOP OF RATINGS HEAP

Aided by a significant drop in viewing of USA Network's two WWF wrestling shows, TBS' two late afternoon NWA wrestling offerings rallied to top the Nielsen cable ratings for the week ending Nov. 5.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING posted a 2.7 rating with a 5.3 per cent share of audience to take the number one spot for the week. WCW has averaged a 2.6 rating since Ole Anderson's booking chores began in May.

The Nov. 5 edition of NWA MAIN EVENT was close behind with a 2.6/4.6, falling off 10% from the previous week's post-HALLOWEEN HAVOC edition.

The two WWF shows on USA fell to a 2.4 (ALL-AMERICAN) and 2.3 (PRIME TIME), the latter of which was PTW's lowest numbers in more than 20 months. The show has changed in the last two weeks to a format where the top matches air in the 9:30-10:30 block with lesser bouts in the final half-hour.

NWA POWER HOUR's premiere Saturday morning edition registered a low 1.3 rating and 5.2 per cent share but TBS believes the new time period will build in a consistent slot (see MATWATCHING, Page 5).

CABLE

Week Ending Nov. 5	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 11/3)	2.7	5.3	1.51 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 11/4)	2.6	4.6	1.46 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 11/4)	2.4	6.3	1.30 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 11/5)	2.3	3.6	1.24 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 11/3)	1.3	5.2	828,000

MATWATCH HOTLINE (901) 664-9246

Please leave news information on the line or messages. We regret that time and expense does not allow us to return every call.

Jesse Wins in Minnesota

JUST CALL HIM "MAYOR BODY"

BROOKLYN PARK MN----To hear his supporters tell it, just call him "Mayor Body."

Jesse Ventura, erstwhile former WWF star and ex-color commentator for the federation, was elected mayor of this Minneapolis suburb in balloting last Tuesday.

Ventura was profiled last Thursday night on ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT, barely a week after a feature on "The Body" on the syndicated A CURRENT AFFAIR.

Ventura was shown being congratulated by supporters and making his election night acceptance. When asked if he planned to return to the ring, Ventura, who hasn't actively wrestled in five years, said: "I might come back to the ring with a gavel."

In the race, Ventura campaigned heavily on an environmental platform but his opponent charged he was simply trying to capitalize on his wrestling name recognition.

Ventura is expected to continue his weekly job as color commentator for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers NFL radio network and published reports have Titan Sports heavily courting his return to the WWF mike after leaving in late summer in an endorsement dispute with WWF owner Vince McMahon Jr.

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

DOUG HENDRICKS, 21692 T.R. 175, MT. BLANCHARD OH 45867, has several back issues of WRESTLING EYE, WRESTLING WORLD, MAIN EVENT, PWI, AWA REPORT, etc., for sale. Send SASE.

RAY WHEBBE'S SPORTS SPECTATOR is selling tapes of the monthly PRO WRESTLING AMERICA cards for $25. Ray will take trades. A percentage will go to Rock & Wrestle Charities. Order from 1800 MECHANIC AVE., ST. PAUL MN 55119.

KENNETH UTLEY, 807 N. CHURCH ST., MCKINNEY TX 75069, has a free list of 300 audio & video tapes for sale. He's also seeking old tapes from 1950-80.

MAT MARKETPLACE is our friend SHELDON GOLDBERG's new bimonthly letter for $2 per issue. It's a listing of wrestling-related items for you folks to buy, sell or trade. He's also seeking some feature writers. Order from Sheldon at P.O. BOX 2371, JAMAICA PLAIN MA 02130.

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